Foreign Universities/Institutes Showing Interest in Sanskrit

976. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Universities/Institutes in foreign countries where scholars/students are taking interest in the Studies of Sanskrit Language and literature; and

(b) whether these Universities/Institutes seek any help from India; if so, in what way and what has been India's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The Ministry does not have this information.

(b) If help is sought, individual cases of requests for help will be considered on merits.

Electrification of Jolarpet Erode Section

977. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds have been allotted for electrification of Jolarpet Erode Section of Southern Railway during the current year;

(b) how much funds have been spent so far; and

(c) by when the work is expected to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Rs. 5.00 Crores.

(b) Rs. 2.78 Crores upto 31-3-1988.

(c) 1991-92.

Unpotable Drinking Water Supplied at Railway Stations

978. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atention has been drawn to the supply of unpotable drinking water at various Railway Stations in the country;

(b) whether any complaints in this regard have been received; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the supply of pure drinking water at the railway stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(c) Sample testing of drinking water supplied at Railway Stations is carried out periodically for residual chlorine and harmful bacteria.

Eye Injury Treatment under the Blindness Eradication Programme

979. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Society for prevention of Blindness have chalked out any programme to launch a battle against eye injuries this year in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the funds allocated for this purpose for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) National Society for Prevention of Blindness observed a Week on Prevention of Blindness on the theme 'Prevent Injuries—Preserve Sight" between 1—7 April, 1988.

(b) Health education programme in industries, schools etc. and to highlight the importance of using safety appliances while on work were organised during this Week. All State Health Directorates were advised by the Centre to extend their participation and active co-operation for observance of the Week with the local branches of National Society for Prevention of Blindness, at State and District levels and to provide all possible facilities through the State Health Education Bureau. No funds were allocated by the Centre to State Governments for this purpose.

Retrenchment of Casual Labourers

980. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 200 casual labourers were retrenched recently by the Railways after completion of its various projects during the last 10 years in Gujarat State and they have not been given alternate jobs in Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to re-employ them and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) On completion of Railway Electrification Project work on Vadodara-Ratlam Section of Vadodara Division about 100 Project casual labour of Electrical Department and 30 Project casual labour of Stores Department have been retrenched.

(c) These casual labourers are borne on the senority list of project casual labour of respective Departments of Vadodara Division. Their re-engagement will be considered by the Railway Administration according to their turn in the respective seniority list on availability of further work for which project casual labour may be required.

Import of Electric Locomotives

981. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India propose to import 1.25 lakh tonnes of 60 kg. per metre Rails I.U.C. (International Union of Railways) of 90 U.T.D.;

(b) whether Government propose to import electric locomotives including cranes from USSR;

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the terms of the import agreement; and

(d) the financial implications thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) It is proposed to import 1.4 lakh tonnes of 60 kg. UIC Rails of 90 UTS quality in the financial year 1988-89.

(b) The possibility for import of a limited number of electric locomotives is being explored.

It is also proposed to import one set of track relaying cranes from USSR.

(c) and (d) The proposals are still in the exploratory stage.